GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3345
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
USING OF WOODEN SLEEPERS
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are still using wooden sleepers for railway tracks;

(b) if so, whether these are profitable and durable than concrete sleepers;

(c) if not, the reasons for not encouraging utilisation of concrete sleepers by the Indian Railways; and

(d) the total amount spent for purchasing of wooden sleepers during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 so far?

Answer

(MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)

(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Indian Railways have progressively reduced the use of wooden sleepers and limited its use only for girder bridges, special layouts and during emergencies on safety consideration. Development and use of alternative type of sleepers for these locations have been undertaken to eliminate use of wooden sleepers in future. Hon'ble Supreme Court during May, 1999 had imposed a total ban on procurement and use of wooden sleepers on Indian Railways which has been modified by an order passed in February, 2000 to permit use of wooden sleepers available in stock with the Railways.

(b) Concrete sleepers are more durable and economical to use as compared to wooden sleepers.

(c) Use of concrete sleepers on Indian Railways is being encouraged, Only for isolated casual renewals in existing wooden sleeper track and for girder bridges and special layouts where other alternatives are still under development, wooden sleepers are being used.

(d)

1997-98 Rs. 21.30 crores.

1998-99 Rs. 45.44 crores.

1999-2000 Rs. 7.00 crores.